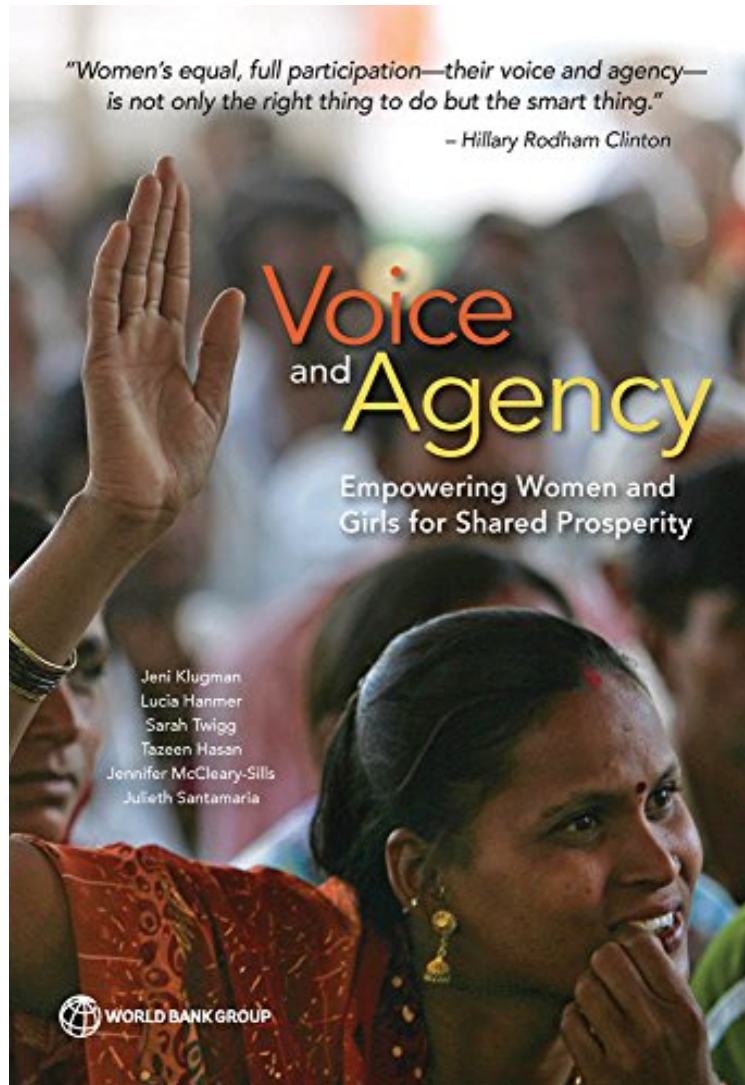


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Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity

Jeni Klugman, Lucia Hanmer, Sarah Twigg, Tazeen Hasan, Jennifer McCleary-Sills, Julieth Santamaria
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Jeni Klugman, Lucia Hanmer, Sarah Twigg, Tazeen Hasan, Jennifer McCleary-Sills, Julieth Santamaria : **Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity:

Despite recent advances in important aspects of the lives of girls and women, pervasive challenges remain. These

challenges reflect widespread deprivations and constraints and include epidemic levels of gender-based violence and discriminatory laws and norms that prevent women from owning property, being educated, and making meaningful decisions about their own lives--such as whether and when to marry or have children. These often violate their most basic rights and are magnified and multiplied by poverty and lack of education. This groundbreaking book distills vast data and hundreds of studies to shed new light on deprivations and constraints facing the voice and agency of women and girls worldwide, and on the associated costs for individuals, families, communities, and global development. The volume presents major new findings about the patterns of constraints and overlapping deprivations and focuses on several areas key to women's empowerment: freedom from violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, ownership of land and housing, and voice and collective action. It highlights promising reforms and interventions from around the world and lays out an urgent agenda for governments, civil society, development agencies, and other stakeholders, including a call for greater investment in data and knowledge to benchmark progress.

The evidence is clear: strong development and women's rights are fundamentally bound together. When women go unheard, their valuable skills, ingenuity, resilience, and knowledge are squandered. If we are to overcome poverty and hunger, women's voices must be raised. This work is an important contribution to supporting women in their own visions and strategies development, and for inclusive growth and development of countries. --Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam International
We are now building on a much stronger foundation in order to be able to make the case as to why women's equal, full participation their voice and agency is not only the right thing to do but the smart thing, and that it will make a difference to the prosperity and stability of societies. --Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former U.S. Secretary of State
Girls and women are the new global economic force the new emerging market. This book underscores that we ignore this at our peril. It is a mustread for all those who want to take decisive action to eradicate poverty and create wealth for our citizens at the bottom end of the ladder. --Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Coordinating Minister of Economy and Minister of Finance, Federal Republic of Nigeria